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Appl. No. 10/502,265
Amdt. Dated November 14, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 29, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 81919.0020
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 29, 2006. Claims 1-15 remain in this application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 15 are the independent Claims. Claims 4, 11 and 12 have been amended. New Claim 15 has been added. It is believed that no new matter is involved in the arguments presented herein. Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the application are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 6 of the Action, Claim 5 was indicated to be allowed. Claims 4, 12 and 13 were indicated to be allowable if re-written to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The allowable subject matter of Claim 4 depends from multiple dependent Claim 3 which depends from Claims 1 or 2. Therefore, Claim 4 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claims 1-3 and new Claim 15 has been added to include the subject matter of Claims 1, 3 and 4. Applicants thank the Examiner and formally recognize the allowed Claims 4, 5, 12, 13 and 15.

Claim Objections

Claims 6, 7, 11 and 12 were objected to for informalities. In response, Applicants have amended claims 11 and 12 to address the objections. Applicants respectfully submit that the dependencies of Claims 6 and 7 are clear since they recite "[t]he logical operation circuit as set forth in claim 5." Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above objections are respectfully requested.

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Double Patenting

Claims 1-3 were rejected under provisional obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-3 of copending Application No. 10/889,402 (Fujimori). Applicants includes herewith a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 § CFR 1.321(c). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above rejections are respectfully requested.

Art-Based Rejections

Claims 1-3, 8-11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Publication No. 2005/0017757 A1 (Fujimori). In response, Applicants submit a declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 showing that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another."

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 8, 10 and 14 are believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

The remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent Claims 1, 8, 10 and 14 and recite additional features of the invention which are neither disclosed nor fairly suggested by the applied references and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

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If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4721 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: November 14, 2006

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